CORPSES STREWN ABOUT THE GROUND.
KILLED AND DISMEMBERED BY RENA...
カナカナカナ…

カナカナカナ…
THAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR ...
I'LL TELL YOU GUYS EVERYTHING.

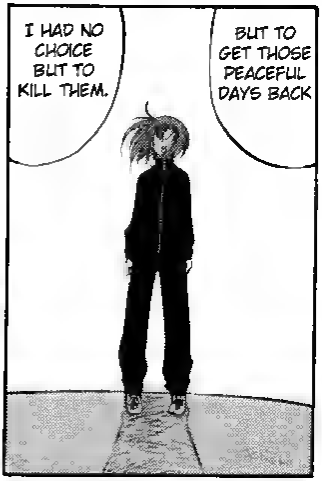
... EVERYONE
WILL YOU PLEASE LISTEN...

WAS VERY CALM...
SURPRI-SINGLY, RENA'S VOICE

TO THE TALE OF
MY STRUG-GLES?
CHAPTER 5: FRIENDS

AND THEN RENA STARTED TO TALK
ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER
WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED RENA WAS LIVING SUCH A HARD LIFE?
THE MURDER OF TWO YAKUZA MEMBERS ...
THE WOMAN TEMPTING HER FATHER.
HER PARENTS' DIVORCE IN IBARAKI.
AND THEN ...
THE SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS THAT BEFELL THE RYUUGUU FAMILY.

HOW HARD ...
MUST PEOPLE WORK
TO BECOME HAPPY ...?
I KNOW MURDER IS WRONG,
I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL ...


BUT TO GET THOSE PEACEFUL DAYS BACK
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL THEM.

ALL I DID WAS DO MY BEST
TO TAKE THAT ONE CHANCE THAT I HAD TO BECOME HAPPY!

IN FACT I WANT SOMEONE TO PRAISE ME!!
NO ONE CAN CRITISIZE ME FOR HOW HARD I WORKED!
RYUUGUU RENA FOUGHT AGAINST HER OWN DESTINY
AND SHE WAS VICTORIOUS !!!

SFX: CRY OF THE CICADAS

TALK?
.....
EVER TALK TO US ABOUT IT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE FAMILY!
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS RIGHT?
WE WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!!
IF YOU HAD TALKED TO US, WE COULD HAVE HELPED!

IF WE HAD WORKED TOGETHER,
WE MIGHT HAVE REACHED A BETTER FUTURE THAN THIS ONE!!
ハァハァ...
A FUTURE ...
BETTER THAN NOW?
THERE'S NO SUCH THING.
THIS IS THE BEST FUTURE.

は
THAT'S A LIE !!
YOU DONT BELIEVE THIS WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME!
AND AS PROOF,
YOU'VE BEEN
CRYING THIS WHOLE TIME!!

WHEN DID TEARS ROLL DOWN MY FACE !?
WHO?
ME?
WHA ...

DON'T YOU SEE IT YOUR-SELF?
RIGHT NOW! THIS WHOLE TIME!!

CRYING AND SCREAMING, CURSING HER BAD LUCK.
SHE'S BEEN CONTINUOUSLY CRYING INSIDE HER HEART.

BUT
IN REALITY, THERE WERE NO TEARS ON HER FACE.

THOSE WHO CAN'T SEE THAT
ARE THOSE WHO DON'T CARE ABOUT RENA FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS!!
KEIICHI YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING !!
...
KEIICHI-KUN WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AHAHA, WHO'S CRYING?

THAT !!
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY CRYING !!
THEN ...
.....

IF I HAD TOLD YOU ABOUT MY DAD AND THAT WOMAN,
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?
!
WELL ...
...
...SEE, ITS EXACTLY THE SAME AS LAST YEAR
YOU CAN'T RELY ON YOUR FRIENDS TO HELP YOU.
... LAST YEAR ...?

HOUJOU SATOSHI.. SATOKO -CHAN'S OLDER BROTHER ...
SA-TO-SHI ...?
ABOUT SATOSHI -KUN FROM LAST YEAR...
... OH YEAH, KEIICHI -KUN WOULDN'T KNOW
BEAT HIS AUNT TO DEATH AND RAN AWAY FROM HOME.
LAST YEAR, SATOSHI-KUN
BEAT... TO DEATH!?
WHA ...

BUT EVEN HE WAS PUSHED TO HIS LIMITS AND GOT BLOOD ON HIS HANDS.
SATOSHI-KUN WAS PROBABLY THE CALMEST AND MOST GENTLE MEMBER OF OUR GROUP.
SO THEY WERE PERSECUTED BY THE VILLAGERS.
SATOSHI-KUN'S FAMILY SUPPORTED THE DAM PROJECT,
BY THEIR INSIDIOUS AUNT.
AND THEY WERE NOW BULLIED
THE TWO WERE TAKEN IN BY THEIR AUNT'S FAMILY
AFTER THEIR PARENTS DIED,
AND WAS SLOWLY BREAKING DOWN.
SATOSHI-KUN PROTECTED SATOKO-CHAN DAY AFTER DAY ...

SO HE ASKED HIS FRIENDS FOR HELP.
SATOSHI-KUN COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT BY HIMSELF,
RIGHT? MII-CHAN?
NO, WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
BUT WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING
BUT DID YOU DO ANYTHING TO HELP SATOSHI-KUN?
MII-CHAN IS THE HEIR TO THE SONOZAKI FAMILY, A POWERFUL FAMILY WITH POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN THE VILLAGE.
BECAUSE OF SUCH VILLAGE RULES YOU DIDN'T TAKE ACTION,
AND ALL YOU DID WAS FEEL BAD FOR HIM.
"THE HOUJOU FAMILY THAT SUPPORTS THE DAM SHOULD BE SHUNNED ..."

BUT MII-CHAN BETRAYED SATOSHI-KUN'S WISH...
SATOSHI-KUN WANTED TO BE SAVED,

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA, MII-CHAN?
HOW TERRIBLE SATOSHI-KUN MUST HAVE FELT.
... I ...

RIKA-CHAN HAD SOME SAY IN THE VILLAGE.
AS THE SHRINE MAIDEN OF THE FURUDE HOUSE,

THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, RIKA-CHAN.

YOU JUST PATTED THEM ON THE HEAD TO CONSOLE THEM.
BUT YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO SAVE SATOSHI AND SATOKO.
...YES...
HOW THAT MUST HAVE BETRAYED SATOSHI-KUN'S HEART...
I DO NOT DENY THAT SIN.
...I DIDN'T KNOW, SO I LEFT THEM ALONE.
RIKA-CHAN...

AND THE ONE ...
WITH THE HEAVIEST SIN OF ALL
IS YOU,
SATOKO -CHAN.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT,
BUT I'VE KNOWN ABOUT MY SIN.
SATOKO -CHAN, YOU...
...I KNOW.
ALL I DID WAS THINK ABOUT MYSELF
AND CRY ABOUT IT TO NII-NII.

THOSE DAYS...
WERE WHAT WAS HURTING NII-NII WHO PROTECTED ME.
RIKA-CHAN, MION...
...SA-TO-KO...
...IT'S JUST AS YOU HEARD, KEIICHI -KUN.
IN THE YEAR SHOWA 57, WHILE I WASN'T HERE...
TO THINK THAT SUCH A THING HAPPENED...

TO BE SAVED HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL HIS AUNT.
SINCE HIS FRIENDS COULDN'T HELP HIM,
BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING EITHER.
SATOSHI-KUN EVEN ASKED ME, WHO HAD JUST TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL, FOR HELP.
コツ。
SATOSHI-KUN WAS ALSO DOING HIS BEST BY HIMSELF.
THOSE WHO ARE REALLY SUFFERING ARE DESPARATE
NOT ONE OF THEM COULD SAVE HIM

STILL, HE HAD FOUR FRIENDS AROUND HIM AND YET,

DO YOU SEE NOW?!
THIS IS THE EXTENT OF YOUR "FRIENDSHIP"!!
THAT'S HOW IT WAS WHERE I USED TO LIVE TOO!
THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.
THEY AREN'T YOUR ALLIES.
FRIENDS ARE JUST THAT, FRIENDS!
BECAUSE NO ONE WOULD SAVE ME ANYWAY!!
THAT'S WHY I TOOK CARE OF MY OWN BUSINESS!!

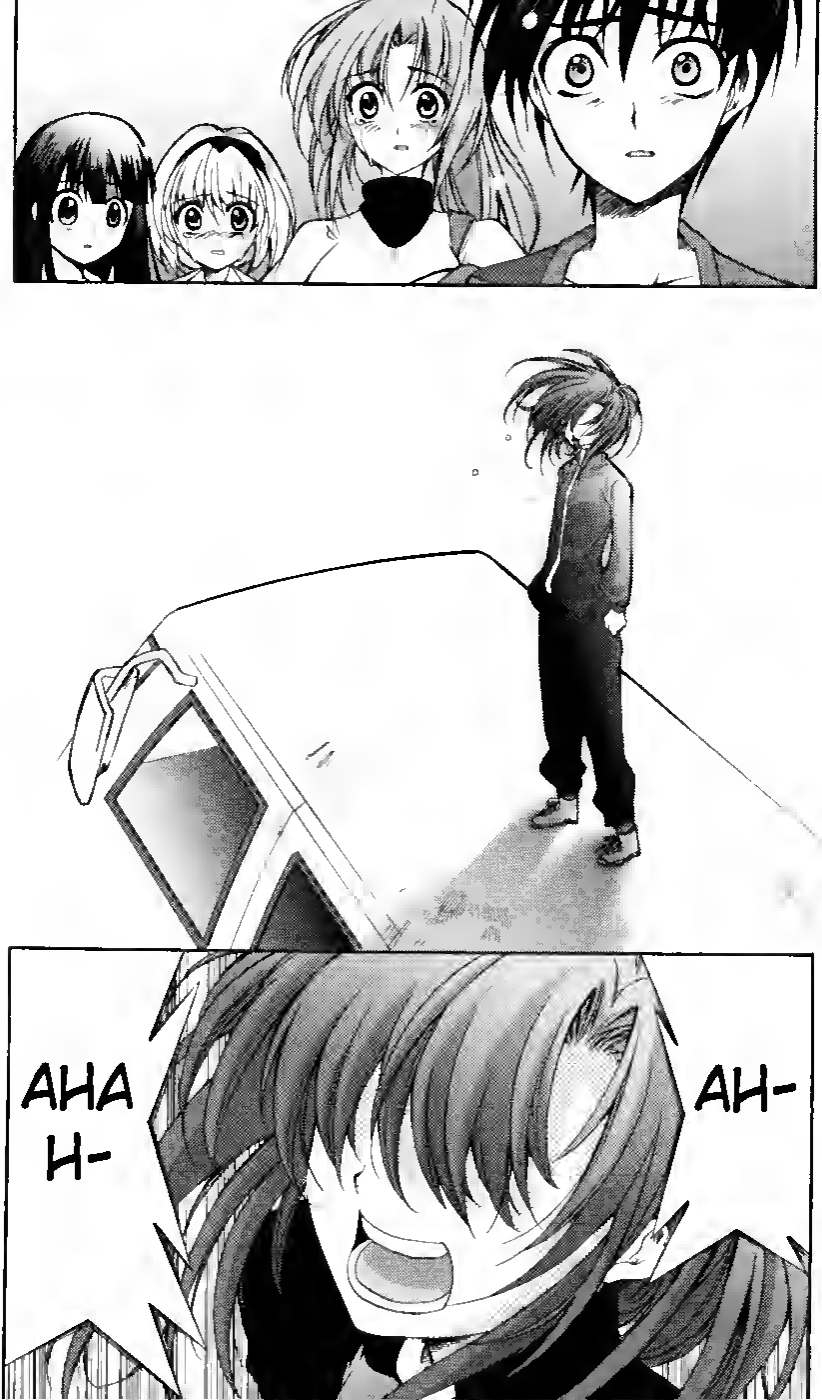
JUST DOING CLUB ACTIVITIES LIKE NORMAL WAS BETTER.
IRRES-PONSIBLE SYMPATHY WOULD ONLY MAKE ME FEEL WORSE.
BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT THAT WOMAN AND MY TROUBLES !!
THE TIME I SPENT WITH YOU GUYS AT SCHOOL WAS REALLY FUN,
... BEATING HIS AUNT TO DEATH
WAS THE ONLY WAY HE COULD BE SAVED ANYWAY ...
IT MIGHT HAVE LESSENED THE BURDEN ON HIS HEART A LITTLE BIT.
SATOSHI -KUN SHOULD HAVE JUST CONTINUED TO PLAY AT SCHOOL.

HAHA... I'M THE SAME AS SATOSHI -KUN.
KILLING THEM WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD BE SAVED...

WHEN YOU ARE TRULY SUFFERING, FRIENDS ARE POWER-LESS!!
... AHAHAHA DO YOU SEE NOW !?

THAT'S WHY I DID EVERY-THING BY MYSELF!!
I UNDER-STOOD THAT SINCE A LONG TIME AGO !!

DON'T MAKE THAT FACE, PRAISE ME!
AREN'T I AMAZING ?!
HEY, DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO PRAISE ME!?
AHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA !!!
AHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA
AHAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA


AHA
H-
AH-

SFX: WAAAAAHHHH

ARE FRIENDS MEANINGLESS---?

BEFORE COMING TO HINAMIZAWA
THAT WAS WHAT I THOUGHT TOO.
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME AT SCHOOL AND CRAM SCHOOL.
I THOUGHT OF THEM AS NOTHING MORE THAN COMPETITION ---
BUT I ...
IN HINAMIZAWA ...
NICE TO MEET YOU, TRANSFER STUDENT!

IS IT ALRIGHT IF I CALL YOU KEI-CHAN?
DON'T WORRY, I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD
YOU FELL RIGHT INTO MY TRAP!
MII~
HINA-MIZA-WA, I---
IN THIS
I'M THINKING OF WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER INTO OUR CLUB TODAY!

WELCOME TO OUR CLUB!
MAEBARA KEIICHI-KUN !!

RENA
!!

I WILL
NEVER ABAN-DON YOU!!
EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR!
I'M SURE THEY'LL HELP YOU !!!
HOW CAN WE POS-SIBLY
ABANDON A SUF-FERING FRIEND ?!

DIDN'T SATOKO JUST TELL YOU A MOMENT AGO?
... KEIICHI -KUN ..
AND THEY WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN!!
EVERYONE'S REALIZED THEIR MISTAKES !!
YOU WEREN'T EVEN HERE LAST YEAR !!
HOW .. HOW CAN YOU TELL?
--- LAST YEAR?
YEAH IT'S TOO BAD I WASN'T HERE LAST YEAR!

BECAUSE, IF I WAS,
I WOULD HAVE KILLED THAT BITCH OF AN AUNT MYSELF!!

TN: RYUKISHI07 SEEMS TO JUST REALLY LIKE USING THE TERM "1500 SECONDS" KEIICHI SAID IT IN TATARIGOROSHI-HEN TOO BUT THAT'S NOT A REFERENCE TO ANYTHING I EVEN DID RESEARCH.

HAVEN'T YOU ACTUALLY REGRETTED IT SINCE THE BEGINNING?
YOU'RE THE LIAR!
A LIE !!!
NO THAT'S A LIE!
BUT YOU'RE TRYING TO JUSTIFY YOUR ACTIONS BY DENYING THOSE FEELINGS!!
IN REALITY, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KILL. YOU WANTED TO TALK TO US. YOU WANTED HELP!!

ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP DENYING YOUR FRIENDS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE,
AND DEFEND THOSE ACTIONS!?
JUST FORGET THAT AND BELIEVE IN US!
WE'RE YOUR ALLIES!
WE ARE YOUR
FRIENDS !!

F...
FRI-
ENDS
...?

BUT
WE'LL MAKE IT RIGHT THIS TIME.

... WE WERE FOOLISH,
BUT YOU WERE FOOLISH TOO, RENA ...

... BUT ...
...IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE ...

I'M ALREADY ...
TAINTED ....

YOU ONLY DID IT BECAUSE YOU HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
YOU COMMIT A CRIME, BUT
グッ
OR TERRIFYING.
THAT'S WHY I WOULDN'T THINK OF YOU AS TAINTED
THAT'S WHY
I FORGIVE YOUR SIN---

...
I
FORGIVE YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
KE
...
KEIICHI -KUN ...
...SO, PLEASE, RENA, EVERYONE ...
CAN YOU GUYS FORGIVE MY SIN...?

I COULDN'T REALIZE RENA WAS SUFFERING UNTIL TODAY.
THAT'S MY SIN THAT CAUSED THIS TO HAPPEN.

KEIICHI -SAN
... KEIICHI
..... KEI-CHAN

THOSE PEACEFUL DAYS!!
THEN WE CAN GET THEM BACK!
WE CAN HIDE THEM DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS AS PLANNED.
... WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THE CORPSES,

THIS IS IT RIGHT? THIS IS THE FUTURE YOU WANTED TO CHOOSE!!!
THIS IS IT RIGHT? THIS IS THE CHOICE YOU WANTED TO MAKE!!!

... BUT ...
IT'S TOO LATE.

NOW, TAKE MY HAND!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
WE CAN GRAB OUR FUTURE !!!
IF WE ALL REACH OUR HANDS OUT
BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME WAY YOU DO...
KE... KEIICHI-KUN, YOUR WORDS MAKE ME HAPPY...

...RENA, YOU ARE NOT TAINTED.
!
RIKA -CHAN!
YOU NEVER SUCCUMBED.
AND EVEN AFTER BEING DRENCHED IN MUD YOU KEPT FIGHTING UP TO THIS DAY.
HOW CAN I POSSIBLY NOT ACKNOW-LEDGE YOU?

I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE TRAPPED
IN A LABYRINTH OF MISFORTUNE FROM WHICH YOU CANNOT ESCAPE.
THAT'S WHY I CAN UNDER-STAND HOW STRONG YOU ARE
TO CONTINUE FIGHTING WITHOUT GIVING IN SUCH A SITUATION
AS KEIICHI SAID, I ALSO
FORGIVE YOUR SIN.
THAT'S WHY
I WANT YOU TO FORGIVE MY SIN TOO.
... KEIICHI -KUN
RIKA -CHAN ...

SATOKO ...
... ME AND RIKA...
WE WERE BOTH ALONE AFTER LOSING OUT PARENTS.
BUT WE NEVER LAMENTED FOR OUR SOLITUDE.
BECAUSE ...
WE HAD YOU GUYS FOR A FAMILY!
.....
AND WE BOTH WISH TO CONTINUE BEING A FAMILY.
BEING ABLE TO FORGIVE EACH OTHER'S SINS LIKE THIS ...
I'M THANKFUL FOR THIS MOMENT!

RENA, I FORGIVE YOUR SINS.
... PLEASE FORGIVE MY SINS AS WELL.
WELL PUT, SATOKO.
EXACTLY, WE'RE A FAMILY!
I'M ASHAMED AS A LEADER AND AS A FRIEND, FOR NOT REALIZING WHAT YOU WERE GOING THROUGH SOONER.
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME.
ぽんっ
MION ...
OF COURSE I FORGIVE RENA FOR NOT TALKING TO US ABOUT IT.

IT JUST MEANS I WAS THAT IMMATURE!
SO I FORGIVE YOUR SINS!
...
KEIICHI-KUN, RIKA-CHAN,
SATOKO-CHAN, MII-CHAN...

COME RENA,
WE'RE READY.

WE'VE ALL
OFFERED OUR HANDS!!

NOW YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT
GET OVER HERE!

... BUT I'M A MURDERER ...
I'LL JUST BE A BURDEN TO YOU GUYS!
... RENA, WE ...

RIKA-CHAN, THERE'S NO NEED FOR WORDS ANYMORE !!
くっ!!
JUST SHUT UP AND REACH YOUR HAND OUT!!
RENA, YOU DON'T NEED TO TALK EITHER.
COME, RENA! IT'S NOT TOO LATE AT ALL!!
YOU STILL HAVE TIME! YOU CAN CHOOSE!!

WE CAN
START OVER !!

WE BECAME FRIENDS IN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE WORD.

AND SO WE FORGAVE EACH OTHER'S SINS...

IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID KEIICHI-KUN...
...AHAHA
I'VE BEEN FOOLING MYSELF ALL THIS TIME BUT IT WAS NO USE.
...HM?
AND HAD FINISHED EVERYTHING MYSELF
IF I HADN'T MET YOU GUYS
BUT I WAS AFRAID OF THE FACT THAT I KILLED A PERSON.
I WAS PRETENDING TO BE FINE,
ぎゅっ…

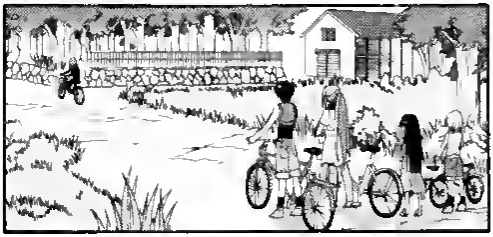
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS
AND WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED BY IT...
RENA ...
A STRANGE MEMORY CROSSED MY MIND.
AT THAT MOMENT ...

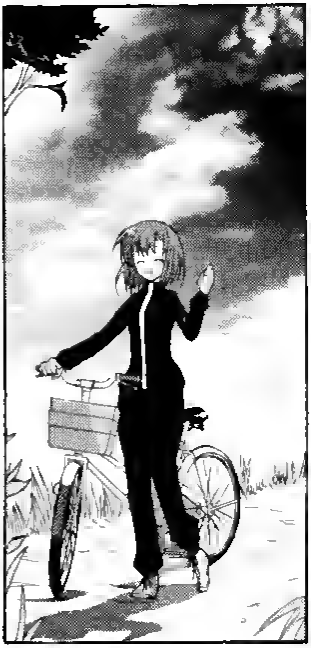
AND DRENCHED MY HANDS IN BLOOD.
I HAD REJECTED MY FRIENDS AND GONE BERSERK ON MY OWN
JUST LIKE RENA
ANOTHER ME IN A DIFFERENT WORLD.
AND THE RESULT THAT I FACED WAS
THE END OF THE WORLD

BUT WHAT FOLLOWS IS DIFFERENT.
THE ME INSIDE THE DREAM AND RENA WERE THE SAME UP TO THE POINT WHERE THEY KILLED A PERSON.
IS IT SOME DREAM I SAW A LONG TIME AGO?

WHAT IS THIS MEMORY?
SHE HAS US.
RENA ISN'T ALONE
WE WILL GET BACK OUR HAPPY LIVES.
TOGETHER !!

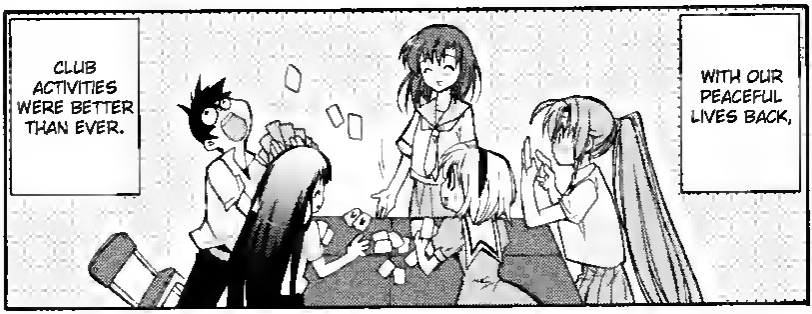
カタカタカタ…





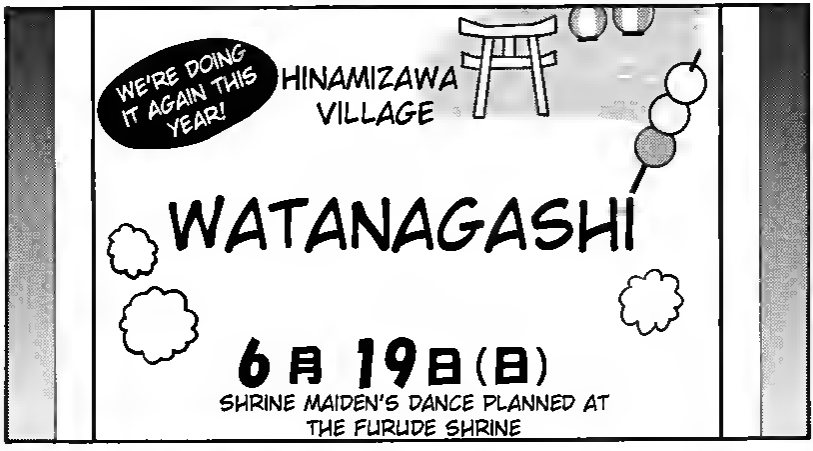
I SAY WE SHOULD ALL FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD DO FROM TOMOR-ROW...
...
I THINK THAT'S FOR THE BEST.
...
BY NOT SPEAKING OF IT,
IT WILL BECOME JUST A MEMORY AND, EVENTUALLY, IT WILL BE FORGOTTEN.
AND WHEN WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT COMPLETELY
IS WHEN WE'VE REACHED OUR GOAL
...

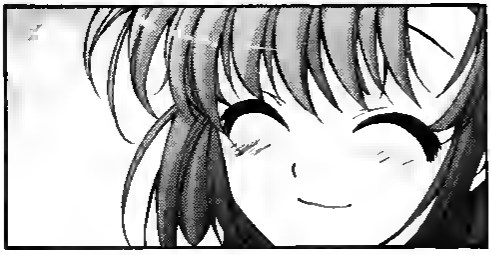
AND SO WE WENT BACK TO OUR DAILY LIVES----


CLUB ACTIVITIES WERE BETTER THAN EVER.
WITH OUR PEACEFUL LIVES BACK,

GOOD MORNING, KEIICHI-KUN!

MORNING, RENA!





THE WATANAGASHI FESTIVAL ...

I WONDER WHO'LL DIE THIS YEAR.

IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN THIS YEAR...

CURSE.
OYASHIRO -SAMA'S
TAKANO -SAN...?
RENA'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
WASN'T OVER YET----

HOORAY,
I WIN!

THE BIGGEST CRISIS YET IN FURUDE RIKA'S LIFE...!!
MI!!!

I'LL LET YOU WEAR A REAAALLY C-C-CUTE OUTFIT ...!!
RI-RI-RI-RIKA -CHAN ...
ガ・ガ・ガ・・・

SAVE ME
OYASHIRO-SAMAAA-AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAAA !!!
AS THE EIGHTH SHRINE MAIDEN OF THE FURUDE HOUSE, I COMMAND YOU!

OH WELL, THIS IS CUTE TOO.
HUH? THIS ISN'T THE OUTFIT I BROUGHT ...
はう...

AND THEN ...
SHINES
OYASHIRO -SAMA

RIKA-CHAN IN A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT WITH A BOOK BAG!
みぃ...
リカ
I'M TAKING YOU HOO-OME!
STUPID GOD !!
はうはう
はう
YOU SWITCHED THE ONE I BROUGHT WITH THE ONE RENA BROUGHT!

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